



# **Committee on Homeland Security**

**Democrats**  
**Bennie G. Thompson, Ranking Member**

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## **THOMPSON CALLS FOR HISTORIC HEARINGS "Top Homeland Democrat Calls DHS "Dysfunctional"**

**"The Department of Homeland Security remains dysfunctional and inefficient, still struggling to look beyond immediate crises and plan for the future,"** said Congressman Bennie Thompson, Ranking Member of the U.S. House Homeland Security Committee. Thompson spoke at the opening hearing of the Committee in the 109<sup>th</sup> Congress.

**"At this moment, thousands of chemical plants stand unprotected, making them vulnerable to attack. Millions of cargo containers enter our ports without being screened to keep out biological or nuclear weapons. Cargo that is placed underneath passenger seats in airplanes has not been screened for explosives,"** said Thompson. **"The Department is not doing enough to make Americans safe from the threat of terrorist attack."**

**"It is our Constitutional duty for us to conduct vigorous oversight of the Department, and it is our moral responsibility to make sure the Department gets it right,"** said Thompson. **"We must shed light on the problems being brushed under the rug by the Department and the Administration, for failure can lead to tragedy."**

**"In the spirit of making sure DHS gets it right, I am calling for this Committee to conduct hearings and investigations of any DHS official who may be involved in unethical or unlawful conduct,"** said Thompson. **"The amendment we Democrats are putting forward today would allow us to investigate and correct the failings of the Department of Homeland Security. Making sure DHS secures America is our moral responsibility, our Constitutional duty and the calling of our time. I call on Republicans to join us in finally demanding accountability from the Department charged with protecting the American people,"** said Thompson.

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